

CREATION

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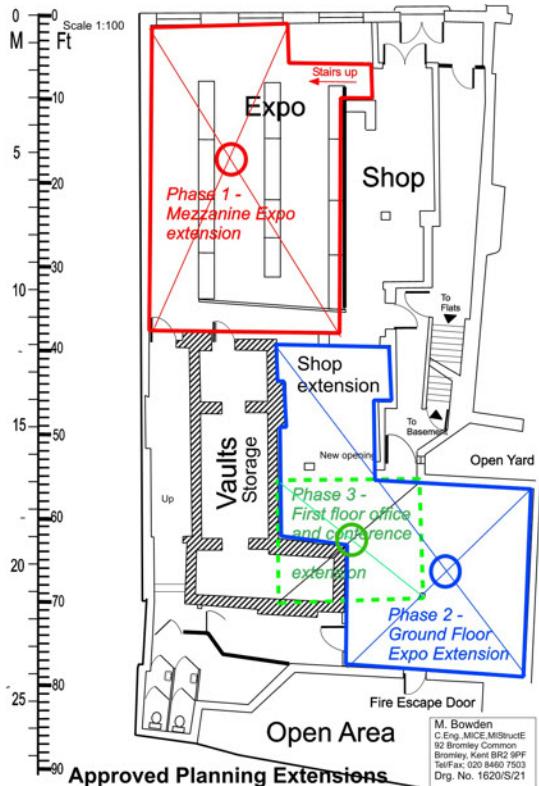
Expansion of the Genesis Expo

CSM has now received full planning permission for three extensions to its existing premises:

- (i) A **Mezzanine extension** to the Expo over the present Expo. It is hoped that this will be put in hand very shortly. (Increase in area 77sq.mt.)
- (ii) Opening up the **ground floor area** to extend the shop area and the present Expo area. (Increase in area 71sq.mt.)
- (iii) Extending the **first floor buildings** for an additional office/conference/meeting room. (Increase in area 21 sq.mt.)

These extensions, when completed, will make a great increase in the area of the whole Expo, enabling even more evidence supporting creation to be presented to the public, which they will certainly never receive through the mass media.

It will probably be necessary for the Expo to close for a period during the winter whilst construction work is carried out.



Intending visitors are recommended to check winter opening times before travelling by telephoning 02392 735610.

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A Predatory Bagworm

Bagworms are the caterpillars of a family of moths called Psychidae. Unlike many species of caterpillars, bagworms characteristically do not feed exposed. Instead they walk around in little cases (“bags”) which they construct from pieces of leaf or twig stuck together with silk. The cases are thought to help camouflage the caterpillars and protect them from attack by predators.

Most bagworms feed on plants, but now a new species has been discovered that, surprisingly, is predatory on other insects. In a paper published in July 2008, Dr Donald Davis¹ and his co-authors note that the new species, called *Perisceptis carnifera*, is a fierce predator of ants and other insects. Even species of ants with powerful defences such as strong jaws and stinging capabilities were seen to come under successful attack.

The new species of bagworm has a somewhat stronger and tougher head and thoracic plates than other bagworms. It also glues one end of its case with silk to a plant surface before attacking its prey, making its victim’s struggles less likely to dislodge it. There is also some evidence that the



A typical bagworm case. Image: *Fir0002*, from Wikipedia under the GNU Free Documentation licence version 1.2.

bagworm may secrete a substance that lures ants to come within its strike range.

One has to ask, how could this ferocious little caterpillar have evolved? Evolution is supposed to occur very slowly and gradually. But how could the bagworm have gradually developed the ability to attack and overcome fierce insects, which are themselves formidable predators? Surely any incipient tendency to carnivorous behaviour would not be favoured by natural selection, as the caterpillar would be less likely to survive than its kindred who stayed safely out of harm’s way. And how could the caterpillar have overcome other insects before it had yet “evolved” its stronger head and its neat trick of sticking down its case before mounting an attack? It is surely far more likely that this bagworm was in possession of its capabilities all fully developed at once, as a result of deliberate in-built design. Once again evolutionary theory is seen to be just so much wishful thinking.

Reference

1. Davis, D. R., et al., 2008, Biology of a New Panamanian Bagworm Moth (Lepidoptera: Psychidae) with Predatory Larvae, and Eggs Individually Wrapped in Setal Cases, *Annals of the Entomological Society of America* 101: 689–702.

Cataclysm revealed

Six months ago *Creation* journal reported on discoveries in the Strait of Dover and off the northwest coast of Africa that indicated past sudden erosion and underwater landslides. These are a far cry from the slow and gradual changes which evolutionists who subscribe to uniformitarian prin-

ples require one to believe. Now further evidence of past catastrophic activity comes from a scanning survey of the seabed off the north coast of Northern Ireland, as reported in a BBC News website item on 30th July.

The survey was carried out under the aegis of the UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency. As expected, the surveyors' vessel found that much of the seabed was flat, but as it continued to travel east it suddenly came across a dramatically different topography. Indications of former huge cliffs, vast basins and plateaus, a lake and even rivers became apparent. The report noted that, "one of the most striking details is a large lake or crater on what was once the top of huge cliffs towering above the plateau below. The streams and rivers that fed it are still clearly defined."

Somewhat mystified, the report queries why coastal erosion did not obliterate all that detail as the sea slowly rose over the land, and cautiously asks "Could it mean that some cataclysmic event took place that allowed the sea to overwhelm the land before erosion could begin?" Indeed. For a detailed account of just such a cataclysm, CSM recommends that the reporter studies Genesis chapter 7.

Frozen accounts

National Geographic's website at <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/> reported on 5th August on a discovery from the McMurdo Dry Valleys of Antarctica. Researchers there have found "the freeze-dried remains of mosses, algae, small crustaceans, and beetles... where glacial lakes once existed".

One of the researchers was David Marchant, a professor of earth sciences at Boston University. He is reported as saying that, "The newfound remains still contain organic tissue... You get this freeze-dried leaf and you put it in water and it still unfurls, opening up as it rehydrates. At that point it looks as fresh as a museum specimen."

The researchers also found volcanic ash deposits in the lake and adjacent areas. Presumably using the usual radiometric dating methods, they determined that "the ash fell in the lake 14.07 million years ago and nearby ash deposits show that most liquid water in the area froze by 13.9 million years ago". However, this rather confident statement overlooks the many problems with radiometric dating methods and the unprovable assumption of constant decay rates. If radioactive decay has not been constant but has been much more rapid in the past, as many creationists have reason to believe, then the true age of the deposits is considerably younger. Would leaf tissue really still look as good as a museum specimen after 14 million years in the Antarctic? One suspects not...

Cuttings & Comments from New Scientist

by Dr David Rosevear

3 May p.6 Seen to work

"Gene therapy may finally be living up to its promise. Injecting 'repair genes' into the eyes of six people with a hereditary visual impairment has improved the vision of four of them."

The researchers "treated patients with a defect in a gene called *RPE65*. They inserted a working copy of *RPE65* into the

patients' retinal cells, kicking them back into action."

The mutated gene caused blindness. Having lost genetic information it was unable to function. Replacing the gene with an un-mutated copy brought back sight. The proposed neo-Darwinist mechanism for evolution, involving natural selection acting upon beneficial mutations is flawed because the mutations cause loss of information, and if severe enough, loss of function. God's original created genes were perfect. Thanks to a complex repairing system, the majority of them still are. The idea of primitive light-sensitive cells evolving into the large number of different optical systems found in the living world is risible.

3 May p.10 Can fetal cells fend off breast cancer?

It has been noted that women with children have a lower risk of getting breast cancer than childless women. Fetal cells have been shown to repair damage to some tissues in pregnant women. **"If fetal cell levels can be boosted, it might also help cancer treatments."**

This design feature protects not only the mother, but also the dependent newborn infant.

But if you are against this creationist interpretation, then you must look for a naturalistic explanation. **"That a baby might protect its mother makes evolutionary sense,"** says the article, **"as a healthy mother is more likely to survive to raise the child to its reproductive years."** In a bone marrow transplant a 'foreign' stem cell can fight some tumours if it is a close genetic match.

Another way of explaining the effect is that both fetal cells,

which include genetic material from the father, and bone marrow cells from siblings, stimulate the immune system, making it more vigilant at recognising and attacking cancer. Neither the fetal cells nor bone marrow stem cells may be directly fighting the cancer. In that case we must consider the entire complex immune system. Can anyone honestly believe that such a system could derive from mutations and natural selection?

10 May p.5 Platypus's secrets

How does one classify the duck-billed platypus? It lays eggs like a bird or reptile, it has webbed feet and an aquatic lifestyle, it suckles its young with milk like a mammal, has sleek, grey fur and a pliable bill. When first brought to civilised Europe from Australia two centuries ago, scientists decided it was a fake and tried to rip off the bill. The platypus genome has now been sequenced, and its genes, like its body, show an amalgam of reptilian and mammalian features.

"The platypus has the same repertoire of milk protein genes as a cow or a human, so clearly milk evolved long before the ability to have live offspring...Now there



Duck-billed platypus as depicted by John Gould
in The mammals of Australia

is no doubt that it split off the branch [of the evolutionary tree] that led to both placentals and marsupials.”

Surely a ‘repertoire of milk protein genes’ bespeaks design. How did a platypus or cow or other mammal feed its young if it had to wait for such a system of genetic instructions and mammary glands to evolve? Evolution is here assumed in order to show a hypothetical evolutionary sequence. Biology classes should include a course in logic.

10 May p.17 Why didn’t the early Earth freeze under the faint young sun?

“Billions of years ago, a weaker sun should have made the Earth a chilly place – so why was it balmy instead?”

They know from fossils and sediments that there was liquid water in abundance, and tropical plants grew larger than today’s equivalents. But if the Earth history is old enough to accommodate evolution (if that were possible) the sun would have been much dimmer than it is today.

The article postulates that the early atmosphere insulated the planet by a greenhouse effect, but that doesn’t resolve all the problems, **“and not everyone is convinced the researchers are right”**.

As with so many anomalies in geology and astronomy, problems melt away with the rising sun when the Earth is seen as less than 10,000 years old.

10 May p.44 Some swans are grey

The Viennese philosopher of science, Professor Karl Popper, identified as the defining characteristic of real science the test of falsifiability. If a theory is capable of being tested and possibly proved false, it is true science according to this 70-year-old standard.

“Times change, though. Popper’s definition of science is being sorely tested by

the emergence of supposedly scientific ideas that seem to fail it. From attempts to understand the fundamental nature of space-time to theories purporting to describe events before the big bang, the frontiers of science are sprouting a host of ideas that are seemingly impossible to falsify.

“So should the pursuit of such mind-boggling ideas be condemned as pseudoscience, or should scientists be more relaxed about falsifiability? ...

Says Peter Woit of Columbia University, New York: ‘I never would have believed that serious scientists would consider making the kinds of pseudoscientific claims now being made’ ... For Woit, attempts to water down the falsifiability criterion are an ‘outrageous way of refusing to admit failure’. His bête noire is the recent explosion of interest in the multiverse, an infinite yet unobservable ensemble of universes of which our cosmos is supposedly just one part. ‘The basic problem with the multiverse is not only that it makes no falsifiable predictions, but that all proposals for extracting predictions from it involve massive amounts of wishful thinking’, Woit says.” ...



“In the meantime, says Tegmark, exploring the idea of the multiverse is no more pseudoscientific than pondering phenomena inside a black hole – another consequence of general relativity whose interior is just as unobservable as the multiverse.” ...

“But whatever one regards as the essence of science – black-and-white falsification or subtle shades of grey – in the end it is still empirical observations that decide if a theory gets taken seriously. ‘At some level, you cannot give up the idea of falsification’.”

It isn't possible to find the Creator with scientific instruments, but those who seek Him will find Him when they seek with all their heart. Jer. 29:13.

17 May ‘God lab’ unveiled

“The cat-and-mouse contest between science and creationism took a new turn this week with the unveiling of a ‘God lab’ ostensibly set up to search for scientific evidence for intelligent design. The move follows a 2005 US federal court ruling that ID is a religious idea not a scientific one.”

It has been set up by the Discovery Institute, see www.biologicinstitute.org

17 May The old curiosity shop

“Do vestigial organs really exist or are they merely a testament to our ignorance? Laura Spinney hunts down the remnants of our evolutionary past.”

“Over the years, the list grew, then shrank again. Today, no one can remember the score. It has even been suggested that the term is obsolete, useful only as a reflection of the anatomical knowledge of the day. In fact, these days many biologists are extremely wary of talking about vestigial organs at all. This may be because the subject has become a battle-

field for creationists and the intelligent design lobby, who argue that none of the [86] items on Wiedersheim’s original list [of 1893] are now considered vestigial...”

“Wiedersheim’s original list included such eminently useful structures as the three smallest toes and the valves in veins that prevent blood from flowing backwards. It also contained several organs we now know to be part of the immune system, such as the adenoids and tonsils, lymphatic tissues that produce antibodies, and the thymus gland in the upper chest, which is important for the production and maturation of T-lymphocytes.

“Some of Wiedersheim’s vestiges have since been identified as hormone-secreting glands – notably the pituitary at the base of the brain, which regulates homeostasis, and the pineal located deep in the brain, which secretes the hormone melatonin. Melatonin is best known for synchronising the activity of our internal organs, including the reproductive organs, with the diurnal and seasonal cycles, but is also a potent antioxidant that protects the brain and other tissues from damage, so slowing down the ageing process.” So we can cross those off the list of items that were useful in our evolutionary past but are now defunct! Male nipples and the appendix can be crossed off the list; the former never had a function while the latter is very necessary if you live where there are no sewers.

Wings in flightless birds are regarded as an unequivocal example of vestigial organs. Yet surely, far from illustrating evolution, they show devolution. Changing conditions or loss of genetic information has caused degeneration from a once perfect creation.

The article offers five human vestiges, but each of them is admittedly questionable.



Flightless cormorant. Image: Wikipedia, originally from *Snowmanradio*, under Creative Commons Attribution Share-alike licence 2.0.

For example, the coccyx or ‘tail bone’ at the base of the spine is a vital anchor for muscles involved in defecation. Wisdom teeth are crowded out by the soft diet we have enjoyed over the past centuries. Goose bumps that cause our hair to stand on end do not help keep us warm in a cold snap, but may heighten an emotional reaction. There is some evidence that a music-induced frisson causes changes in activity in the brain that are associated with pleasure. Yet in spite of all this evidence that supposed vestigial organs have nothing to do with any imaginary evolutionary past, the article concludes that “**it is hard to ignore the evidence that human beings are walking records of their evolutionary past.**”

24 May p.3 A breed apart with p.28 So you think you’re unique

“It is finally time to kiss goodbye to the idea that humans are qualitatively different from other animals” begins the editorial. One is reminded of that comment that ‘reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated’. The editor continues: “To anyone schooled in Darwinism, this should come as no surprise. Humans sit on a tiny twig of the much larger tree of life. Evolutionary theory tells us that our brains are not wholly different from the brains of other animals, so what they do should not be wholly different either.” However, the fact that the Creator gave animals the brains necessary for them to function is not evidence that we, with our brains, developed from them. They, like us, have stomachs, but neither is that evidence for relatedness either.

Language is generally regarded as a unique human ability. But on page 28 et seq. Christine Kenneally breaks down communication into a suite of abilities, everything from gesticulation and babbling to meaning and syntax. Gestures and babbling have always been observed in monkeys and other primates. Domesticated creatures such as sheep dogs are capable of quite sophisticated communication. But apart from a few birds capable of mimicry, we don’t have conversations with non-humans. (If we do, they tend to be a bit one-sided!) It is not logical to use animal alarm calls to support the idea that humans are just highly evolved beasts. The article does admit that it is the human larynx, which descends at about the age of two years, that enables us to articulate a range of sounds. (Before two, a lowered larynx would allow choking.) But even human babies understand meaning well before they can talk. God’s Word tells us that our uniqueness lies in being in God’s image.

24 May p.4 Preacher teachers

“US courts have repeatedly decreed that creationism and intelligent design are religion, not science, and have no place in school science classes. Try telling that to American high school teachers – 1 in 8 teach the ideas as valid science, according to the first national survey on the subject.

“A quarter reported teaching about creationism or intelligent design ... Sixteen per cent of the total said they believed human beings had been created by God within the past 10,000 years. The teachers who subscribed to these creationist views, perhaps not surprisingly, spent 35 per cent fewer hours teaching evolution than educators with more scientific views, the researchers found.”

It is felt that “requiring all science teachers to take a course in evolutionary biology could have a big impact on the teaching of evolution in schools.” However, your reviewer recalls that when Dr Roger Downie of Glasgow University tried that with his students of medicine and biology, it resulted in even more of them believing in Creation.

31 May p.18 Dark matter hopefuls line up

“It’s the top contender for dark matter, the stuff thought to make up 90 per cent of the mass of the universe. Yet is the hypothetical neutralino particle really the best candidate? By reassessing the reasons for making the neutralino the front runner, physicists have opened up the field to many other dark matter candidates.”

So we have a hypothetical particle with a fancy name making up the lion’s share of the universe. And they call it science and say creationism is nonsense.

31 May p.21 Don’t expect ET to be like us

“We have been hunting for intelligent life in the Universe since Frank Drake inaugurated the first modern radio search in 1960. So far, no interstellar communications have been detected.

“SETI scientists ... consistently acknowledge that alien intelligence would likely be older and more advanced than our own, a belief borne out by what we know about the universe. Yet they have done nothing to incorporate this into their search. Instead they continue to look for biological creatures similar to us – ignoring the likelihood that any intelligence in the universe has evolved beyond biology ... ET will have sought the best ways to improve their intelligence, and in doing so may long ago have advanced beyond flesh and blood to artificial intelligence (AI).

“The vast disparity in age between biologicals and post-biologicals highlights what has been called the incommensurability problem: the difference between our minds and theirs may be so great that communication is impossible.”

This piece of science fiction does recognise that the argument for a post-biological universe is not made with deductive rigour, or the argument that ET exists at all. But the author does seem to want to explore the possibility that life on earth is not unique, and that Man is less than special, even primitive.

31 May p.30 Essence of thought

This article restores Man’s position as an intelligent being with a highly complex brain. Some quotes:

“1 million. Number of new neuronal connections formed every second.
100 billion. Estimated number of nerve cells in your brain.

25 billion. Processing capacity of a typical desktop computer (instructions per second).

100 trillion. Processing capacity of the human brain (ips).

500 trillion. Estimated number of synaptic connections in an adult brain.

One has to ask, could random mistakes in copying DNA sorted by natural selection be responsible for this awesome complexity? Mutations lose information. Those working on Artificial Intelligence projects do their best to avoid mistakes!

31 May p.46 Fact and fiction from the Bible

"Israel Finkelstein is an archaeologist who argues that many Old Testament tales are fictitious, while remaining an advocate for a Jewish state in the Holy Land who observes Jewish traditions.

"His conclusion is uncompromising: many famous biblical stories are probably pure fiction. The exodus of the Israelites from Egypt never happened and Joshua never attacked Jericho, let alone brought the walls down ... David and Solomon were not great kings who ruled over the ancient land of Canaan in the 10th century BC from a palace in Jerusalem, as the Bible portrays." Yet he and his family celebrate the Passover festival, presumably for cultural or political reasons. Other archaeologists have not shared his iconoclastic views. Sam Wolff, an archaeologist with the Israeli Antiquities authority, says "**I can't name more than a handful of archaeologists who accept his theory. It has made more waves in the popular media than it has in academic circles**". So why does *New Scientist* give it prominence?

7 June p.30 Inflation deflated

"Our best theory of the early universe is starting to look a tad insecure. Could this mean we've got it all wrong?

It seems that satellite measurements of the cosmic microwave background radiation (CMB), thought to be the red-shifted echo of the big bang that supposedly started everything off, seem to contradict the predictions of inflation.

"Inflation is arguably the most important theoretical idea in cosmology since the big bang", but now that idea is unravelling.

"It explains why the universe is essentially flat, despite Einstein showing us that space-time curves, and why the temperature at opposite horizons of the universe is almost identical, even though heat should not have had time to spread that far. Inflation even explains how stars and galaxies formed from the quantum jitters present after the big bang."

Now cosmologists think we should be looking for alternatives to inflation theory.

"... we might then be forced to go back to the drawing board and conjure up a deeper, more satisfying theory. This could be based on existing alternatives to the inflation and cyclic universe ideas – theories that invoke a varying speed of light or modified gravity, for instance."

One idea that they will not go back to is Creation, as described in that Book that they would like to think is full of pure fiction. The big bang theory requires inflation that should now admittedly be scrapped, plus dark matter for which the hypothetical neutralino is the front runner, and dark energy, a hypothetical anti-gravity. Small wonder that Eric Lerner and his colleagues want to ditch the whole big bang idea and start all over again. But too much money has already been invested and too many careers would hit the buffers.

14 June p.34 The second coming

The article's first coming was the so-called Cambrian explosion. A layer of sediments close to the bottom of the rock system that geologists call the geological column has a plethora of fossil creatures with most of the body plans that are around today. It is interpreted as the level and time in pre-history when all these creatures suddenly evolved, with no fossil precursors. We creationists see the Cambrian layer simply as nearly the lowest level where creatures were buried catastrophically in the Flood, swept together and sorted by their habitat. Above those layers is what geologists refer to as the Ordovician 'era' when a large number of other creatures were suddenly buried. This is here called 'the second coming' but we would call it a further sorting of flood burials of living things that had flourished up to the time of the Flood. The Ordovician is seen as a long period of time when such creatures evolved (from what?) at a time when the "sea levels were some of the highest the world has ever seen, covering continental shelves with great expanses of warm, shallow water ... the sort of sea that does not really exist now." Well, they got that bit right!

Large numbers of impact craters and fossil meteorites are found at this level suggesting to creationists that the Flood was associated with disturbances in parts of the solar system. The shape of the planet Mars (see below) and the presence of an asteroid belt both speak of a violent event in the past. Fossils found in the Ordovician layer include shell fish such as clams, crinoids, corals, sponges and snails. Giant trilobites, not the usual few centimetres long, but up to 70 cm long, also perished in this judgment time. We have some of these giants on sale at the Genesis Expo.

21 June p.21 Corrugated wings help dragonflies cut drag on flying

"The diaphanous wing of the dragonfly is not only a thing of beauty, its pleated profile also makes it a superior aerofoil. The dragonfly *Aeschna cyanea* can glide for up to 30 seconds without so much as a wingbeat. Yet its wings look nothing like the supposedly ideal streamlined, cambered wing perfected in 1901 by flight pioneers Orville and Wilber Wright and used ever since by the aviation industry. Instead, the wing surfaces are highly corrugated with pleats that stiffen them against bending across their span."

New research found "that the pleats gave the wings much greater lift than they expected in gliding flight, matching and sometimes bettering that of a similarly sized streamlined wing. This is because air circulates in the cavities between pleats, creating areas of very low drag that aid the lift-generating airflow across the wing." And not only is the dragonfly aerodynamically proficient, but it is also aesthetically beautiful.



Fossilised trilobites



Dragonfly. Image: J. Freschly at www.sxc.hu

tion part of the curriculum, and to change the definition of science to allow for supernatural explanations of events.”

Surely evidence for design in biology and irreducible complexity can not have natural explanations. Science is knowledge, without artificial restrictions.

“The health of a modern society depends on the opportunities it provides its children through education. That’s too important to be left to amateurs, much less enemies of knowledge.”

It's too important to be left to self-appointed atheist bigots!

21 June p.56 World lines by Lawrence Krauss

Here is yet a further fulmination against school boards in Texas voting to question evolutionism in the school curricula:

“... whose education board is now debating whether high-school texts should be required to discuss the ‘strengths & weaknesses of evolution’.”

Surely it is the job of science education to teach the controversy. Does he not want to get at the truth, even if unpalatable to him?

“... a campaign designed to suggest that evolution was somehow scientifically controversial.”

Which planet does Krauss live on?

“McLeroy not only does not accept evolution, but also believes that the Earth is thousands, not billions, of years old. This alone makes him uniquely unqualified to judge any scientific curriculum. And with Texas being one of the biggest buyers of textbooks in the US, what happens there could influence the contents of books used across the country.

“In 2005, as chair of the board, Abrams led his fellow young-Earth creationists in voting to make evidence against evolu-

28 June p.10 Hawking gets to grips with inflation

“There’s no fundamental theory to explain why inflation happened in our universe – it’s just proposed as an ad hoc solution that explains some particular observations,’ says Thomas Hertog of Denis Diderot University in Paris, France.

“What’s worse, one of the best attempts to explain how the universe came to be – string theory – has arguably complicated matters. It suggests that more than 10^{500} variations of the universe, each with different physical parameters, could exist.”

28 June p.13 Almighty smash flattened half of Mars

The huge gash on Mars is the largest known impact structure in the solar system. It is thought that a huge impact blasted away much of its northern hemisphere’s crust. The crater appears kidney shaped because lava has since obscured part of it, but closer examination reveals that it is a near-perfect ellipse.



Mars as seen by the Hubble Space Telescope.
Image: NASA and the Hubble Heritage Team.

So should Lawrence Krauss (21 June) be indignant that Texans think that evolution theory is somehow scientifically controversial and should be discussed openly? Stifling dissent is the mark of dictators and medieval religious authorities, rather than seekers after truth.

5th July p.28 Crucible of creation

Is there no end to the problems with big bang theory? We hope not. The latest difficulty relates to the proportions of isotopes of atomic mass 6 and 7 in lithium. This third lightest element (H, He, Li) is said to have been formed in the first 5 minutes after the proposed big bang that formed the universe out of nothing. It has been found that there is only a fraction of the amount of lithium-7 in the ‘very early universe’ that theory demands, but a thousand times as much lithium-6. The article points out that “**this isn’t the first time that our understanding of the big bang has been challenged ... evidence that all is not well.**” Could someone mention this to Krauss?

5th July p.15 Birds of a feather don’t always flock together

“**The evolutionary history of birds has always been something of a mystery**”. The various orders of birds are found together in the fossil record with “**precious few intermediate forms to help biologists work out where the orders came from and how they are related.**” To throw some light on the origin of birds, scientists should consult Genesis 1:20-21. Instead they have “**sequenced 19 regions of the genome in 169 species of birds and then used the sequences to construct the most robust avian evolutionary tree ever made. There are several surprises. For example, falcons are more closely related to songbirds than to other hawks and eagles.**” The article has a photo of a hawk tearing up and eating one of its supposed cousins on this most robust evolutionary tree. The drab grebe is most closely akin, apparently, to the brilliant flamingo, while the tiny hummingbird genetically resembles the nighthawk. The flying tinamous are grouped in with flightless ostriches, emus and kiwis.

12 July p.5 A lesson in cynicism & p.8 Class conflict

The American state of Louisiana passed its Science Education Act at the beginning of July to allow the long cherished principle of academic freedom to include the right for teachers to question Darwinism. School teachers may now introduce books and other materials from outside the standard curriculum to help students critique the science they are taught.

The Louisiana bill received nearly unanimous support from the politicians (94 to 3 in the House and by unanimous vote in the Senate) so the *NS* editor suggests that parents and scientists must be mobilised to meet the new threat. “**The onus will be on parents to spot violations of the rules on separation of church and state ... ‘In**

Dover, there were parents and teachers willing to step forward and say, this is not OK', says Rosenau. 'But here we're seeing that people are either fine with it or they don't want to say anything because they don't want to be ostracised in their community."

12 July p.11 Flatfish caught evolving, thanks to its roving eye

Flatfish larva swim in open water with an eye on either side of their heads, but soon one eye migrates so that the mature fish swims on the seabed with both eyes on its upper side. Now two fossils of a mature flatfish have been found with one eye seemingly in process of migrating from one side to the other of their heads. This is here hailed as a missing link. Or it may be just a variant of flatfish that is now extinct.

26 July p.12 Breaking up may be easy to do, if you're a comet

"The puzzling abundance of comets in short solar orbits has led a pair of astronomers to suggest that they are fragments of larger bodies that crumbled as they entered the inner solar system."

They reckon the comets started as large Kuiper-belt Objects (KBOs) beyond Nep-

tune. "However, there seem to be too few KBOs in these vulnerable orbits to maintain the 10,000 strong population of short-term comets, which is continually thinned as they burn out, fall into the sun or get ejected from the solar system." The astronomers found that the calculated rate of addition of KBOs to the inner solar system was only a 500th of the rate needed. They suggest that some of the larger KBOs must have crumbled into 100 to 1,000 pieces. Another expert is quoted as saying "I know of no evidence that comets can break into 100 or 1,000 pieces."

This is an attempt to answer the argument that if the solar system is 4.6 billion years old there should not be thousands of short term comets. The solar wind strips away ice and rock from comets, visible as a tail pointing away from the sun, especially at their closest approach (the perihelion).

26 July p.15 Energetic axions paint inflation into a corner

"Inflation, one of the most important ideas in big bang cosmology, may have hit another stumbling block." [see 7th June & 28th June above]. This time it is irregularities in the so-called cosmic microwave background and hypothetical particles called axions. One expert says he is "far from certain about string theory and the nature of axions".

26 July p.50 Reason's just another faith

The philosopher Mary Midgley argues that Science is the new religion. The Enlightenment reformers struggled against the power of the church, calling upon Reason to undermine Christianity.



Plaice, a typical flatfish. Image: B. Stroinski at www.sxc.hu

Today Science is regarded as Reason, and has become a rival religion, requiring our trust and absolute faith." **It is not at all the qualified, provisional acceptance that might suit actual scientific findings. It claims to answer not just factual questions but every kind of social and moral dilemma. It offers general salvation.**

"Science then no longer stands for enquiry but for ideology, authority, a general approach to life which demands to prevail in all conflicts: that is, it is turned into scientism. And as past experience shows, that ideology can include some very odd components. The most obvious example is eugenics, the programme of 'improving' the human race. This was accepted as an authentic part of science from the time when the Victorian polymath Francis Galton invented the term and proposed incentives for 'the lights of the nation' to breed early and often. That was until the arrival of the Nazis, whose activities suddenly made the fearful overtones of eugenics plain."

discusses the first eleven chapters of Genesis as literal history. Other chapters discuss the age of the earth and opposing theories of theistic evolution, progressive creationism and the gap theory. Tas Walker offers geological evidence for a young earth while Jonathan Henry extends the evidence to the rest of the solar system and Vardiman to the oceans and atmosphere.

This reviewer was sorry to see some criticism of the Intelligent Design Movement, as though they did not realise that the omission of biblical evidence and the nature of the Designer were ploys to get around the separation of church and state in the American education system.

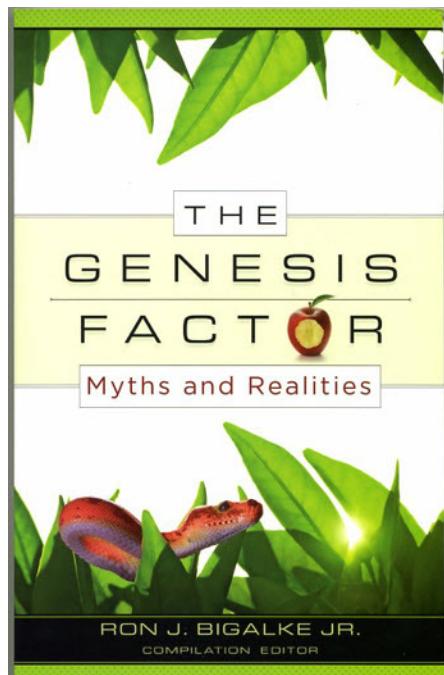
The book is full of interesting facts and ideas from both history and science, and the low price reflects the present weakness of the dollar.

New Publications

The Genesis Factor Ed. Ron J. Bigalke Jr, Master Books, 2008, pb., 256pp. Available from CSM at £7.95 + P&P.

This paperback is a welcome defence of the Young Earth Creationist position. Contributors include the late Henry M. Morris, John C. Whitcomb, Terry Mortenson, Eugene H. Merrill and Larry Vardiman.

Christopher Cone takes us through a history of biblical creationism from the apostolic era, various church fathers from Clement of Alexandria (b.150AD) to Chrysostom (b.347), the Middle Ages, the Reformation to modern times. Mortenson takes us on to 19th century scriptural geologists. Merrill



The Numerical Structure of DNA – how Genesis is encoded in DNA by Peter Bluer, 40 page booklet available from Peter@biblemaths.com.

Dr Bluer's previous book *373, a proof set in stone*, analyses the numerical values of the Hebrew letters/words of Genesis 1:1 and Deuteronomy 6:4, together with the Greek of John 1:1, and finds fascinating patterns of prime numbers in these Creation texts.

In this new booklet, Peter extends his analysis to the numbers of protons and neutrons in the atoms of the 20 naturally occurring amino-acids and the 4 bases of DNA to show the ubiquity of the same prime numbers. This is way beyond coincidence and demonstrates mathematically that life on Earth has the same Author as the heavens and the Earth, namely the Lord Jesus Christ. DR.

Videos and DVDs

Some further recordings from lectures given at earlier Creation conferences are now available on video and DVD from CSM:

'The Scientific Evidence Against Evolution & The Ape Men Fallacy' by Malcolm Bowden (2 talks on the same video). Video £4.00; DVD £6.00.

'On the Rocks: Evolution & The Age of the Earth' by Paul Garner. Video £4.00; DVD £6.00.

Meetings

Preliminary information on upcoming Creation conferences:

Fair Oak, Southampton, Saturday 7th February 2009 with AS, SH, RB & DR

Brunel Manor, Torquay, 4th-8th May 2009 with DR and KT.

9th European Creation Conference at Eastbourne in August 2009, details tba.

Pilgrims Hall, Brentwood, Essex in September 2009, details tba.

Creation Travelling Display

Andrew Sibley has developed twelve A1 graphic display panels on Intelligent Design and the Fossil Record. He is making these freely available for use in outreach in 2009 to tie in with creationist responses to the Darwin Day 200 plans. Those seeking to make use of this facility - perhaps for a week's mission - will need to arrange collection, or possibly by other arrangement if part of a CSM creation conference or speaking engagement. The panels should fit into the boot of a large estate car or small van. Please call 01297 552471 for further information or email a.m.sibley@btinternet.com.

Free e-book

Tihomir Dimitrov, M.Sc., has asked us to remind readers that he offers a free e-book, *50 Nobel Laureates and other great scientists who believe in God*. He goes on to say that "...the book comprises well-documented quotations from some of the most influential scientists and writers in the world. In the course of my 11-year search I have studied hundreds of books, articles and

letters – primarily those found in the archives of the National Library of Bulgaria (Sofia), Biblioteca Comunale di Milano and the Austrian National Library (Vienna). I have also corresponded with many contemporary Nobel Prize-winning scientists who have shared their personal beliefs about God. I believe that this book will inspire believers, that it will give hope to seekers and that it will challenge those who think that religion and contemporary science are in an insurmountable conflict". The e-book can be downloaded in pdf format (882Kb) from his website at <http://nobelists.net>.

Prayer Requests

The CSM Council seeks to serve our great Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in the work of proclaiming the truth of Creation as declared in the Bible. We earnestly request that you join us in this work through your prayers and petitions.

Please join with us in thanking our God for the wonderful opportunity to enlarge and update the Genesis Expo. Please pray that this will go ahead without hindrance and will bear much fruit.

We are also aware that 2009 is a key year when evolutionists will be actively proselytising for their worldview. Your prayers that we, and other creationist organisations, will meet this challenge and rebut it successfully would be greatly appreciated.

In furtherance of this end, with the September mailing we have included a new A4 format leaflet specially aimed towards teenagers. Please pray for open hearts in those who read it. Further copies are available from CSM.

Thank you for your support.

Articles in the Journal are generally by the editor, R. Cambridge, unless otherwise stated. Articles, letters, notes and other contributions from new writers are warmly welcome.

If you would like a CSM speaker for your church, school, university, town hall or whatever, please telephone or email us as in the panel below, giving choices of dates if possible. A contribution towards expenses would be appreciated. We would be able to offer a creationist bookstall.

Creation Science Movement

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